SHORTER NOTES

Bird Nests from Jamaica. — On our recent trip to Jamaica we had the pleasure of going down on the same steamer with the ornithologist of the New York Zoölogical Park and his wife, and spent one delightful afternoon together at Hope Gardens, among the flowers and the birds. The humming-birds are always the most attractive visitors to the flowers of the tropics and are naturally very much admired. I made an effort to secure the nests. That of the "doctor-bird," *Aithurus polytmus*, a large black humming-bird with two long tail feathers was sent to me from Cinchona where it was found suspended from the leaves of the pampas grass and is composed of the woolly scales of one of the tree-ferns, *Alsophila pruinata*. The outside is covered and bound together with a fine net-work of spider's web and ornamented with pieces of lichen. The eggs were white and fragments of them still remain in the nest. It measures 2½ inches in depth on the outside and 1 inch inside, is 6 inches in circumference and 1½ inches across the top and is wonderfully soft and light and a rufous brown color.

The humming-birds are particularly fearless and numerous in Jamaica and visit the flowers in the drawing-rooms daily, scolding if your presence annoys them and fluttering over your head. One of them attempted to make its nest in a vase of flowers at "Bullstrode" near Grange Hill.

We also have a nest of the Jamaica swift made of the down from various species of *Tillandsia*, presented to us by T. B. Sturridge, Esq., of Union Hill.

Elizabeth G. Britton.

Notes on Rutaceae.— **Xanthoxylum Nashii** Wilson, sp. nov.

A prickly shrub or small tree 3–4.5 m. high, with slender grayish branches; young twigs light gray, verrucose-glandular; stipular prickles in pairs, numerous, slender, straight or slightly curved, spreading, chestnut-brown, becoming gray with age; leaves odd-pinnate, 0.5–1.5 cm. long, the petioles, and rachis (if present), narrowly winged; leaflets 3, occasionally 5, obovate, truncate or rounded and often emarginate at the apex, cuneate at the base, minutely and often obscurely crenulate above the

middle, equilateral or occasionally inequilateral, sessile or subsessile, glabrous, coriaceous, lustrous above, pellucid-glandular, the glands few, scattered, the marginal glands larger; lateral leaflets 2.5–7 mm. long, 1–4 mm. broad, the terminal leaflet somewhat longer and broader; flowers not seen; calyx from under mature carpels, 1.5–2 mm. broad, the sepals 5, entire or denticulate; fruiting inflorescence lateral, sessile or subsessile; capsules one to three, sessile, obovoid, compressed, 6–9 mm. long, 5–9 mm. broad, blackish or brownish, the surface wrinkled; seeds orbicular, compressed, often truncate at the base, 5–6 mm. long, black, shining, smooth or slightly wrinkled.

Type collected in a xerophytic region near Gonaïves, Haïti, *G. V. Nash 1579*.

Amyris texana (Buckley) Wilson, comb. nov.

Zanthoxylum texanum Buckley, Bull. Torrey Club **10**: 90. 1883.
Amyris parvifolia A. Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. **23**: 226. 1888.

Type collected by S. B. Buckley near Corpus Christi, Texas, April, 1882.

Casimiroa edulis La Llav. & Lex. Nov. Veg. Descr. **2**: 2. 1825.

Zanthoxylum bombacifolium A. Rich. Ess. Fl. Cub. 329. 1845.
Fagara bombacifolia Krug & Urban, Bot. Jahrb. **21**: 567. 1896.

Sagra's specimen in the herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, agrees with Mexican material of *Casimiroa edulis;* the ovary in the Sagra specimen is abortive. It is very probable that the material upon which Richard based his *Zanthoxylum bombacifolium* was from a cultivated plant.

Specimens collected in Cuba by Bonpland and G. Don and referred by Dr. Urban to Richard's species have not been examined by me.

Percy Wilson.

New York Botanical Garden.

Another Leaf-spot Fungus of the Apple. — During the past five years, I have been trying to find out what fungus it is that causes the defoliation of so many apple-orchards in West Virginia. An examination of hundreds of leaves from some of

the worst defoliated orchards shows that most of the fungi, heretofore associated with the defoliation of apple trees, were either not present or when present and even abundant did not bring about a defoliation. However, there was a fungus, one of the Tuberculariae, which was universally present in these orchards and occasionally on apple trees by the roadside. While I do not know that this fungus was primarily responsible for the defoliation, it caused a large amount of damage to the foliage. It was so plentiful in some orchards by the first of September that the lower branches of some of the trees were nearly defoliated, the remaining leaves being brown and crumpled.

The spots caused by this fungus are so different from the spots caused by other leaf-spot fungi of the apple that they can be readily recognized even when the fungus is not fruiting. In general, the spots are nearly circular, from five to fifteen millimeters in diameter, two or more frequently coalescing. In color, the spots are brown or brown mottled with gray, the two colors being arranged more or less concentrically or like contour lines on a map. In the center of some of the spots is a small gray or whitish spot, caused, perhaps, by a first infection of the leaf by some other fungus. The larger and encircling spots may, therefore, be due to secondary infection by the fungus under consideration.

The spore-fruits of the fungus might be easily overlooked, and probably have been, since they are on the under side of the leaf, of about the same color as the spots, minute, and hidden to a considerable extent by the pubescence of the leaf. The fungus is very similar to *Hymenula cerealis* E. & E. except that the sporodochia are considerably smaller (1 : 5) and the conidia a trifle plumper than those of the type specimen of *Hymenula cerealis* which I examined in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden. The shape and structure of the sporodochia are also more like those of an *Illosporium* than a *Hymenula*. On account of these differences, the name **Illosporium malifoliorum** n. sp. is tentatively proposed with the following description :

Spots suborbicular, or coalescing and becoming irregular, brown or sometimes mottled with gray and with a small gray

spot near the center, 5–15 mm. in diameter; sporodochia hypophyllous, minute, gelatinous, yellowish-amber and blackening, subspherical when moist (150 μ) becoming disc-shaped or irregular when dry (60–100 μ); sporophores branched; conidia hyaline, oblong, 1×3.5–$4\ \mu$.

While examining specimens of other apple leaf-spot fungi in the herbarium of the United States Department of Agriculture, I came across this same fungus on a few leaves among specimens determined as *Phyllosticta pirina* Sacc. and collected by M. B. Waite at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., and A. R. Blakely at Springdale, N. C., in 1889.

JOHN L. SHELDON.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY,
MORGANTOWN, W. VA.

REVIEWS

Grout's Mosses with Hand-Lens and Microscope*

Part IV. of Mr. Grout's "Mosses with Hand-Lens and Microscope" equals the previously-issued parts in good type, excellent paper, and numerous, clear illustrations. More detailed explanations might well be given some of the full-page plates, remarks are too often included in the generic and specific descriptions, and the descriptions could be more readily compared if the same arrangement were regularly used; however, the "non-technical" character of the book as announced on the cover page is undoubtedly the author's justification for his treatment of the subject. Numerous short keys are given; these with the excellent illustrations should make the identification of our common mosses a very simple matter.

The Guide to Nature and to Nature Literature†

"The Guide to Nature and to Nature Literature," mentioned in the last issue of TORREYA, began publication with the April number. It is an "Illustrated monthly magazine for adults, de-

* Grout, A. J. Mosses with Hand-Lens and Microscope. Part IV. Pp. 247–318. pl. 56–75. figs. 134–195. Published by the author, Brooklyn, New York, 1908. $1.25.

† The Guide to Nature and to Nature Literature. Magazine. Illustrated. Official organ of the Agassiz Association. Editor, Edward F. Bigelow, Stamford, Connecticut.